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ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY

# NEWS

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ISSUED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

## INDEXING COMMITTEE MEETING

The fourth meeting of the Committee of Consultants for the study of medical indexing was held at the Army Medical Library on Friday, 11 March 1949.

During the morning session, the Chairmen of the Subcommittees on Need for Medical Indexes, Use of Medical Indexes, Scope and Coverage of Medical Indexes, and Techniques in Indexing presented interim reports. At the afternoon session, the Committee listened to a presentation by Dr. Atherton Seidell of the development of the *Current List of Medical Literature* and the international responsibilities involved in medical indexing. Dr. Sanford V. Larkey reported further on the progress of the research project under way at Johns Hopkins and described the results of preliminary interviews with medical research workers. The Committee is giving considerable attention to the problem of needs for medical indexes.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Sunday, 1 May 1949.

## CURRENT LIST INDEXES

Delay in the publication of the monthly indexes to the *Current List of Medical Literature* has been a matter of great concern to us. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in locating efficient personnel qualified to assist in compiling these indexes. The Library is currently exploring the possibility of short-term borrowing from the staffs of other medical libraries. Under this plan qualified individuals would be granted leave by their institutions and employed on a four-months temporary basis in the Army Medical Library. At the expiration of this period they would return to their former positions. These positions are graded at P-2 and pay $3,727.20 a year.

There would be many advantages in this plan, both to the Army Medical Library and to the cooperating institutions. These assistants would be given full orientation and would carry back to

their positions a knowledge of the resources and services of the Army Medical Library. In turn, they would be contributing to the publication of the indexes used in their own libraries.

## DEATH OF DR. TRENT

Dr. Josiah C. Trent, an Honorary Consultant to the Army Medical Library and a member of the Honorary Consultants Association's Acquisitions Committee, died 10 December 1948. At the time of his death Dr. Trent was in charge of thoracic surgery at Duke Hospital, Durham, N. C.

## RED CROSS EXHIBIT

Coincident with the annual national drive of the Red Cross in March, we have had on display an exhibit on "The Red Cross, Its Origin and Development." Miss Robina Rae, Curator, Museum, The American National Red Cross, Washington, D. C., cooperated in assembling the material.

The Red Cross movement had its origin in the mind of one man of vision, Jean Henri Dunant [1828-1910], a Swiss author and philanthropist who in 1859 attempted with other unorganized civilians to relieve the great suffering of the neglected wounded on the bloody field of Solferino. His continued effort during several years that followed resulted in the unofficial convention at Geneva in 1863.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, the United States Sanitary Commission was organized as a civilian agency to assist the official medical service. It developed into a nationwide organization with state and local chapters throughout the Northern states and achieved great success. Its activities were very extensive and beneficial.

It was at Geneva in 1864 that the American and European movements that had originated independently in the two hemispheres united into one great humanitarian effort.

Miss Clara Barton was instrumental in securing ratification of the Geneva Treaty by the United States and became its first President when the American National Red Cross was incorporated 1 July 1881.

## ADDITIONAL POSITIONS

Late in February the Personnel Authorization Board of the Surgeon General's Office allotted 56 additional positions to the Army Medical Library. Twenty of the subprofessional vacancies have been filled, those remaining being principally professional in the

grades P-1 and P-2 [$2,974.80 and $3,727.20]. Recruiting for these positions is now going on and applications will be welcomed.

## STAFF ACTIVITIES

With Miss Janet Doe, of the New York Academy of Medicine Library, Mr. Scott Adams, the Acting Librarian, spoke at an assembly of Columbia University School of Library Service on 25 March. Mr. Adams described the challenges to medical librarianship inherent in the reorganization of the Army Medical Library. Student interest in science libraries is encouraging. Columbia reports that eighty percent of its present class is taking the course in scientific literature given by Mr. Thomas P. Fleming.

A review of Dr. Claudius F. Mayer's "New Terminology and the Index-Catalogue" is published in the Winter, 1949, issue of the *Journal of Cataloging and Classification.* This is a paper presented by Dr. Mayer at the Symposium on Medical Subject Headings sponsored by the Army Medical Library in December 1947.

Mrs. Eleanor Coffyn McNinch transferred in mid-March from the Army Medical Library to the Naval Research Laboratory Library in Washington, where she will be the Assistant to the Librarian. The former Mrs. Coffyn was Chief of the Reference Division from March 1948 to the date of her transfer and previous to that was Acting Chief of the Division for one year.

Miss M. Ruth MacDonald, Chief of the Catalog Division, will participate in a two-week study at the American Library Association Headquarters in Chicago, for the Division of Cataloging and Classification, from March 25 to April 7. The purpose of the study is to facilitate recommendations for specific methods of cooperation between A.L.A. and the division. Miss MacDonald will represent the division with Miss Laura C. Colvin, Simmons College School of Library Science. They will spend the two weeks working with members of the Headquarters staff and studying procedures, records and activities. Advice will then be given as to the details of a program for assisting the division, and the representatives will interpret the problems at Headquarters to division members.

Miss Isabelle W. Entrikin, of the Index-Catalogue Division, is conducting a graduate class in Indexing and Abstracting at the Library School of the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., during the spring term, February to June 1949. The class meets for two hours each Saturday morning. The work of the class includes indexing of books, analysis of journals, and the techniques of abstracting.

Miss M. Irene Jones, Head of the Subject Cataloging Section, gave a recruiting talk on medical librarianship before the Department of Library Science students at Catholic University on 30 March. The talk was sponsored by the Medical Library Association, of which Miss Jones is Public Relations Officer.

Miss Emilie V. Wiggins, of the Catalog Division, visited five library schools between March 15 and 24. Her assignment was to tell the students about the Army Medical Library and to recruit candidates for several professional vacancies on the staff. Miss Wiggins' itinerary included Drexel Institute, Columbia University, Simmons College, the University of Michigan and the University of Illinois.

## ART SECTION

An agreement has been concluded with the Army Medical Illustration Service of the Army Institute of Pathology whereby the Library assumes the responsibility of collecting, storing and servicing all portrait material. Included are group portraits, cartoons and caricatures, hospital photographs, and photographic copies of medical book illustrations (including the collection made to illustrate Garrison's History of Medicine).

In return, the Library will turn over to the Army Medical Illustration Service all photographs and negatives of pathological or clinical interest.

## APPOINTMENT OF DR. VEITH

Dr. Ilza Veith has been appointed by the University of Chicago as Lecturer in the History of Medicine in the Department of Medicine and the Division of Social Sciences for the academic year beginning October 1949. Since late 1947 Dr. Vieth has been a Consultant to the Army Medical Library in the field of oriental medicine.

Dr. Veith lectured recently to the Seminar of the Clinical Departments, Division of Biological Sciences, School of Medicine, at Chicago, on *Acupuncture and Moxibustion.*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In his article "An Abstractor Looks at Written Composition," Dr. F. C. Sumner, Head of the Department of Psychology, Howard University, gives credit to the Army Medical Library for its assistance during the past three years in the preparation of some 1400 abstracts. His article is published in the December 1948 issue of *The Alpha Kappa Mu Journal.*